

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted in favor of legislation yesterday to help small businesses by providing them with improved access to federal contracts. H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act approved by the House will ensure small business owners have a more fair opportunity to compete for contracts from the federal government.

“Small businesses are the heart of our economy in San Antonio and across America,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “But for too long, too many small businesses have found it difficult or impossible to compete for federal contracts. This bill aims to fix that problem by giving hard-working small businesses a fair opportunity. If we are going to continue to grow the American economy, small businesses need to be able to compete on a more level playing field.”

America is home to more than 26 million small businesses that represent more than 99.7 percent of all employers. Small businesses create half of our gross domestic product, and up to 80 percent of the new jobs nationwide. Additionally, studies have shown that supporting small businesses is good for the American economy. For every \$1 invested, small businesses will contribute \$7 to the economy.

In recent years, the federal government has failed to ensure small businesses have the opportunity to compete for government contracts. In the past six years alone, the federal government has failed to meet its 23 percent small business contracting goal. This failure costs small businesses almost \$10 billion in lost contracting opportunities. Additionally, the federal government has incorrectly credited small businesses with receiving \$12 billion in contracts that were awarded to large businesses.

Details on the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act:

- Gives small businesses a better opportunity at government contracts by making it harder for government agencies to bundle contracts into billion dollar super-contracts;
- Makes changes to ensure more federal contracts are available to small firms;
- Takes steps to ensure that large corporations are not able to take advantage of small business contracting programs, and requires the Small Business Administration to reach out to small businesses regarding the opportunities to compete for government contracts.